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**Montana
Office of Public Instruction**
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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TO: MBI School Teams

FROM: Susan Bailey-Anderson Mary Ellen Earnhardt
MBI Coordinator Learn and Serve Coordinator

RE: MBI, Character Education and Learn and Serve Youth Day(s)

DATE: September 2010

**“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”
~Franklin Delano Roosevelt**



Greetings! Effective school change requires wide stakeholder participation. Engaging the student voice in designing and implementing school change can be very powerful. We can make a difference – one student and one school at a time.

An invitation is extended to you and your middle school and high school students to participate with the MBI, Character Education and Service-Learning Youth Day(s) for 2010-2011. On Sunday, we will begin at 2:00 p.m. and conclude by 8:00 p.m. On Monday, we will begin at 7:45 a.m. and conclude by 2:00 p.m. A meal will be served on Sunday evening and a morning snack and lunch on Monday. Your school will be reimbursed for travel, lodging (if you should need it) and per diem at the current state rates. Following are the dates and locations:

October 24-25 – Missoula
October 31- Nov. 1 – Miles City
November 14-15 – Billings

November 21 & 22 – Great Falls
December 5 & 6 – Bozeman

Internationally acclaimed motivational storyteller, author and success coach, D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas will be working with the participants to inspire and challenge the youth to “Find the Warrior Within.” Based on concepts from D.J.’s celebrated book *“The Tiny Warrior: A Path to Personal Discovery & Achievement”*, students will be inspired to focus their talents to better serve their schools and communities. D.J. has worked with many corporations like IBM, HP, J.P. Morgan, NASA and has served hundreds of tribal governments, communities and schools across the country.

Please check out his Web site at: www.nativediscovery.com for more information.

Additionally, Kevin Murphy, MBI Consultant and one of last year's Youth Days facilitators will be returning to work with the students and staff. His excitement and enthusiasm for working with youth blends insight with fun and laughter to strengthen the student's talents and leadership skills. Activities are planned so that students will have the opportunity to work with students from other schools, as well as with their own teams. The event will be structured so that teams of students and school staff will create action plans for their school site regarding the implementation of the MBI process and service learning, as well as addressing leadership skills, asset building, and student voice at their school. Sessions and activities will be mostly student directed with school staff participation.

The experience from past Youth Days has positively impacted schools across Montana. Last year, several schools held fund raising campaigns in order to bring back last year's Youth Days guest speaker Bobby Petrocelli to speak to their fellow students and to spread his message of "*Taking 10 Seconds to Change Your Life Forever*". Students returning to Youth Days this year will be able to combine Bobby's message with the insight of D.J.'s wisdom to strengthen their leadership and life skills.

This event includes opportunities for fun, networking, and developing future and current leaders. We are considering making arrangements to have this Youth Day videotaped and photographs of students participating in activities and volunteering may be taken as well. Please have each student fill out the attached consent form and return it with the registration form. You will need to make additional copies for your students.

Service-Learning Projects

Teams will conduct service-learning projects at each of the locations on Monday of the event. Please come prepared to work and dress for the weather. Some service-learning sites will be outside. More information will be provided upon registration.

Poster Session

Please plan to set up a poster session to introduce your school and service-learning projects conducted in the past year. Tables will be available for each school site. Poster display boards work really well as may other types of media display. Tell something about your school, your team, service, learning, etc. Please indicate on the Registration/RSVP form if you will need a table for the poster session.

MBI Youth Film Festival

Many schools across Montana have developed short video presentations to demonstrate how MBI looks, sounds like and is practiced in their schools. Students have worked with their teachers to create some wonderful, and often very funny, videos that can be used to teach new students and teachers what their school's behavior expectations are. Other videos show students working together to improve the climate at their school and others illustrate some of the projects the student groups are working on to better their communities.

This year at MBI Youth Days, we will present our first *MBI Film Festival* to showcase several of these videos in order to inspire and challenge youth to consider using digital media as a fun and powerful way of reaching a broad audience and to see what other student groups are doing. Students will be in charge of introducing their video to the larger group and will have the opportunity to answer questions during the

poster session. If your school team has a video they would like to share, please indicate so on the registration form and we will contact you with more details. Notice will be given to selected teams before the Youth Days event so teams have time to prepare.

Door Prizes

We are asking each school to bring two or more items from their school and community that can be shared with other participants as door prizes. These door prizes have been a hit at past Youth Days! Thank you so much for the help with this as it really adds to the experience at the Youth Days.

Coat and Food Drive

Last year the Youth Days participants participated in a very successful state-wide coat drive sponsored by the Governor's Office. Hundreds of clean and gently used coats were brought to the Youth Days locations and were given to collection sites to be distributed to families and individuals in need. We are proud to again ask our Youth Days participants to play their part in this year's coat drive and ask interested teams to bring coats in good condition to the Youth Days locations.

This year we are also encouraging Youth Days participants to gather non-perishable food items that will be donated to local food banks when the teams visit and volunteer. Both the coat and food drive are optional activities of Youth Days but are great ways of encouraging our youth to help our fellow Montanans in need.

Registration

Please plan to attend this event and bring up to 10-12 participants. This includes both students and staff. In selecting students, please include a broad spectrum of your student population, including student leaders and future student leaders. A cross section of your student population would be ideal in promoting diverse ideas and thoughts. Please complete the attached Registration/RSVP form indicating the number and names of both students and staff who will be attending. This is important to adequately plan for meals and/or other activities.

Please return the following forms to Susan Bailey-Anderson, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501; Fax - 406-444-3924.

- ♦ **RSVP/Registration**
- ♦ **Permission Form**

When the RSVP/Registration Form is received at the OPI, you will receive a confirmation letter with detailed information regarding sites and lodging.

For questions, please call me at (406)444-2046 or e-mail sbanderson@mt.gov

Attachments

Cc: Consultants
Jael Prezeau
Kevin Murphy
Mary Ellen Earnhardt

YOUTH DAYS 2010

Montana Behavioral Initiative, Character Education and Service-Learning

Registration and R.S.V.P

Office of Public Instruction

PO Box 202501

Helena, MT 59620-2501

FAX: (406) 444-3924 – Deliver to Susan Bailey-Anderson

- ☐ MISSOULA – OCTOBER 24-25, 2010 – Fax or mail back by October 15, 2010
- ☐ MILES CITY – OCTOBER 31-NOV 1, 2010 – Fax or mail back by October 22, 2010
- ☐ BILLINGS – NOVEMBER 14-15, 2010 – Fax or mail back by November 5, 2010
- ☐ GREAT FALLS – NOVEMBER 21-22, 2010 – Fax or mail back by November 12, 2010
- ☐ BOZEMAN- DECEMBER 5-6, 2009 - Fax or mail back by November 26, 2010

School _____ Contact Name _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

- ☐ Reserve a table for poster session
- ☐ Submitting a video for the film festival (please see invitation letter for details)

STUDENT NAME

STUDENT NAME

CHAPERONE NAME



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

RELEASE FORM

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vocal recording	music
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Such request should be mailed to:

Montana Office of Public Instruction
OPI Contact:
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, Montana 59620-2501

If the person named above is a minor, I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor and consent to the use of the above subject as described above. I have the legal right to issue such consent.

Signature: _____

Phone number: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

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